

Public Law 101-460
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

Oct. 24, 1990
[S.J. Res. 349]

Designating October 1990 as "Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month".

Whereas Italians and Italian-Americans have made contributions in all areas of life in the United States, including art, science, civil service, military service, athletics, education, law, and politics; Whereas Italian-Americans make up one of the largest ethnic groups in the United States;

Whereas an annual national observance day has been established in October to recognize the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus, one of the greatest explorers in history and the first to record the discovery of the Americas;

Whereas the phrase "All men are created equal", contained in the Declaration of Independence, was suggested by the Italian patriot and immigrant Philip Mazzei;

Whereas the people of the United States take great pride in the accomplishments of the many outstanding men and women of Italian descent who have enriched our Nation's history, including Fiorello LaGuardia, the beloved mayor of New York City, and Enrico Fermi, winner of the 1938 Nobel Prize for Physics;

Whereas Italy enjoys a rich cultural heritage and has given the world the great works of Dante, the breathtaking art of Giotto and Michelangelo, and the inspirational music of Antonio Vivaldi and Domenico Scarlatti;

Whereas the Americas were named for the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci;

Whereas William Paca, an Italian-American, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas during October 1990, special attention will be directed to national, State, and local programs promoting Italian heritage and culture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That October 1990 is designated as "Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month" and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved October 24, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 349:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):
Sept. 28, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 16, considered and passed House.

